

# **American attitudes on refugees from the Middle East**

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and  
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## **Survey Methodology**

The survey was conducted May 20-31, 2016 with a panel consisting of a probability-based representative sample. The panel was recruited by Nielsen Scarborough from its larger probability-based national panel, which was recruited by mail and telephone using a random sample of households provided by Survey Sampling International. A total of 1580 panelists completed the survey including a national sample of 845 adults, plus an oversample of 735 millennials (18-34), making for a total sample of millennials of 863. Responses were weighted by age, gender, income, education, race, and geographic region using benchmarks from the US Census. The survey was also weighted by partisan identification and millennials were down-weighted consistent with these groups' incidence rate in the U.S. Census. The margins of error for the national sample and for each subgroup is: National – 845 respondents, MoE: 3.4%  
Millennials – 863, MoE: 3.3%

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Millennial (18-34)- 863 respondents, MoE: 3.3%

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## Poll Section on American attitudes on refugees from the Middle East:<sup>1</sup>

As you may know, since 2001 the United States has admitted about 800,000 persons with refugee status from around the world, or about 50,000 people a year on average. In U.S. law, a refugee is a person who is already living outside their own country because of a “well-founded fear of persecution.” This definition can include those fleeing civil war in their home country. It excludes those who “participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.” Those applying as refugees for asylum in the U.S. are investigated by various arms of the U.S. government. This process takes about two years.

59. In general, do you support or oppose the United States taking in refugees from the conflicts in Syria and other Middle Eastern countries after screening them for security risks?

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Support strongly	10%	36%	24%	24%
2. Support somewhat	28	41	32	35
3. Oppose somewhat	20	15	16	17
4. Oppose strongly	43	8	26	24
5. Refused	0	<1	3	1

60. It’s estimated that over 4.5 million Syrian refugees have been settled in neighboring countries, (such as Turkey, Jordan, and Egypt) with 450,000 in need of resettlement. The European Union has absorbed about 150,000, while the U.S. has taken in about 3,500. The U.S. plans to take in 10,000 in 2016. Assuming extensive background checks are in place to ensure there are not terrorist links, should the U.S. accept refugees from Syria specifically?

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Yes	38%	73%	49%	56%
2. No	61	27	47	43
3. Refused	1	1	4	1

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<sup>1</sup> The following section on American attitudes on refugees from the Middle East was part of a larger survey on American attitudes toward broader Middle East issues. The remaining sections will be released after analysis in the middle of July.

61. [Among those supporting absorbing refugees, 60=1] How many refugees should the U.S. sponsor and resettle in 2017?

Write the proposed number: ----- [OE NUMERIC TEXTBOX – WHOLE NUMBERS ONLY. MIN: 1]

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Mean	35,618	64,475	83,309	58,928
2. Median	10,000	15,000	15,000	10,000

62. [Among those opposing absorbing refugees, Q60=2] Which of the following concerns you most about absorbing refugees? [RANDOMIZE]

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. I'm concerned about terrorism	50%	41%	35%	46%
2. I'm concerned about having more Muslims in the U.S., even if they are peaceful	8	11	4	9
3. I'm concerned about the economic burden of absorbing refugees of any kind	38	41	52	41
4. Other [ANCHOR]	3	5	8	4
5. Refused	0	2	0	1

63. In your estimation, how many refugees have been arrested in the United States since 9/11 over terrorism charges?

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Fewer than 5	7%	19%	18%	14%
2. Fewer than 25	21	30	24	26
3. Fewer than 100	34	27	31	30
4. 100 or more	36	23	25	28
5. Refused	2	1	3	2

64. If some of these Syrian refugees came to live in your state or community, do you think they would be welcomed?

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
a. Yes	48%	61%	52%	55%
b. No	51	39	46	44
c. Refused	1	1	2	1

65. As you may know, American laws prohibit discriminating against people including refugees solely on the basis of their ethnic or religious background. Does this incline you to be [RANDOMIZE ORDER Of “MORE” AND “LESS”: more or less] accepting of Syrian refugees in the U.S? [SHOW OPTIONS A+B IN SAME ORDER AS QUESTION TEXT]

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
a. More	8%	22%	8%	15%
b. Less	19	7	14	13
c. The same [ANCHOR]	72	71	78	72
d. Refused	1	<1	0	<1

66. If the U.S. institutes a refugee policy excluding single men, would you support the U.S. accepting more refugees?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
a. Yes	26%	32%	24%	28%
b. No	73	66	75	70
c. Refused	1	2	2	2

67. Here are some ways the U.S. might respond. Please tell us whether you support or oppose the following measures:

67a. The U.S. government should take in more [war] refugees, allowing them into the US

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Support Strongly	5%	29%	19%	18%
2 Support Somewhat	20	35	32	29
3 Oppose Somewhat	26	21	17	23
4 Oppose Strongly	49	13	30	29
5 Refused	1	2	2	1

67b. U.S. individuals and community groups (e.g. churches) should sponsor more refugees, helping them with funds and assistance to settle in the US

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1 Support Strongly	13%	33%	21%	24%
2 Support Somewhat	34	40	30	36
3 Oppose Somewhat	18	14	20	16
4 Oppose Strongly	33	11	28	22
5 Refused	2	2	2	2

67c. The U.S. should offer financial support to charities who are helping refugees abroad

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1 Support Strongly	15%	28%	21%	22%
2 Support Somewhat	42	38	30	38
3 Oppose Somewhat	19	22	15	20
4 Oppose Strongly	23	11	33	19
5 Refused	1	2	1	1

67d. The U.S. should send professionals in humanitarian work, such as nurses, doctors, and teachers to help refugees in camps abroad

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1 Support Strongly	28%	40%	31%	34%
2 Support Somewhat	50	43	41	45
3 Oppose Somewhat	11	12	12	12
4 Oppose Strongly	10	3	15	7
5 Refused	1	2	2	2

68. Based on what you've seen, heard, or read, what do you think about Europe's response to the migrant crisis? [**RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1+2**]

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. European nations are doing too much as it is	33%	9%	17%	20%
2. European nations are doing as much as can be expected	32	42	27	36
3. European nations should be doing more [ <b>ANCHOR</b> ]	10	22	20	17
4. Don't know/Can't say [ <b>ANCHOR</b> ]	23	26	37	26
5. Refused	1	1	0	1

69. Apart from the question of whether U.S. should accept more refugees, does the U.S. have a moral obligation to help refugees from the following countries?

69a. Libya

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1 No obligation	66%	36%	51%	50%
2 Some obligation	30	46	31	38
3 High obligation	4	17	17	12
4 Refused	1	1	1	1

69b. Iraq

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1 No obligation	57%	35%	47%	45%
2 Some obligation	34	40	31	37
3 High obligation	9	24	21	18
4 Refused	1	1	1	1

69c. Syria

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1 No obligation	64%	34%	48%	48%
2 Some obligation	31	43	36	37
3 High obligation	5	21	16	14
4 Refused	1	2	1	1

70. How do you think the U.S. should deal with the Syrian refugees who are already in the country? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Welcome them and help absorb them into American society	60%	90%	74%	76%
2. Expel them	36	9	21	21
3. Refused	4	2	6	3

71. Who would you like to see take the lead in addressing the needs of refugees once they are in the United States? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
a. Federal government	17%	41%	26%	29%
b. States	19	13	24	17
c. Charities and other non-governmental organizations	62	45	48	52
d. Refused	2	1	2	2

72. On a scale of 0-5, where 0 is “not important” and 5 is “very important,” how would you rate the following steps to deal with the Syrian refugees once they arrive?

72a. Resettlement Services

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
0 Not Important	17%	6%	14%	11%
1	9	3	10	6
2	10	9	11	10
3	23	22	17	22
4	19	19	14	18
5 Very Important	19	40	33	31
Refused	3	2	3	2

72b. Job Readiness and Placement Services

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
0 Not Important	17%	5%	9%	10%
1	6	3	7	4
2	8	7	14	8
3	21	17	20	19
4	20	28	17	24
5 Very Important	26	39	31	33
Refused	3	2	3	2

72c. English Language Training

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
0 Not Important	7%	3%	5%	5%
1	3	2	3	2
2	2	3	6	3
3	8	8	7	8
4	14	21	11	17
5 Very Important	65	61	68	64
Refused	2	2	1	2

72d. Immigration Assistance Program

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
0 Not Important	20%	5%	10%	12%
1	10	5	8	7
2	12	8	18	11
3	22	21	17	21
4	17	24	15	20
5 Very Important	16	34	31	27
Refused	2	2	3	2

72e. Computer Training Program

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
0 Not Important	25%	9%	13%	16%
1	9	8	15	9
2	15	15	13	15
3	27	24	25	25
4	13	20	11	16
5 Very Important	8	22	20	16
Refused	3	2	5	2



72f. Wellness Program

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
0 Not Important	19%	6%	10%	11%
1	9	3	5	6
2	12	10	16	11
3	27	21	25	24
4	15	25	17	20
5 Very Important	16	32	25	25
Refused	3	2	3	3

72g. Provide K-12 Education

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
0 Not Important	16%	4%	10%	9%
1	5	2	7	4
2	5	4	12	6
3	19	12	12	14
4	14	20	10	17
5 Very Important	36	54	45	46
Refused	6	3	5	4

74. Once refugees are in the United States, which approach do you think the U.S. should take to integrate them into American society? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
a. Rapid integration	43%	40%	41%	41%
b. Slow integration	55	58	53	56
c. Refused	3	2	6	3

75. On a scale of 0-10, where 0 is “not being open” and 10 is “being very open,” rate your degree of openness for refugees from the following region:

Q75a. South America

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
0 Not being open	20%	4%	18%	12%
1	5	1	2	3
2	6	3	4	4
3	3	3	4	3
4	7	4	6	6
5	17	16	18	17
6	6	6	1	6
7	9	10	7	9
8	9	10	11	10
9	6	12	8	9
10 Being very open	10	28	21	20
Refused	2	2	1	2

Q75b. Central America

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
0 Not being open	22%	4%	19%	13%
1	5	2	3	3
2	6	2	2	3
3	4	4	4	4
4	5	6	5	6
5	20	15	20	17
6	7	6	1	6
7	8	9	7	9
8	8	12	9	10
9	5	9	10	8
10 Being very open	9	29	21	20
Refused	2	2	1	2

Q75c. Africa

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
0 Not being open	24%	5%	20%	14%
1	6	2	2	3
2	5	3	3	4
3	5	5	4	4
4	6	5	8	6
5	16	15	15	16
6	6	6	4	6
7	9	8	7	8
8	8	12	9	10
9	4	11	5	7
10 Being very open	9	28	23	20
Refused	2	2	1	2

Q75d. The Middle East

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
0 Not being open	36%	9%	22%	21%
1	8	2	3	4
2	9	5	2	6
3	8	5	7	6
4	4	6	8	6
5	11	15	14	13
6	4	6	3	5
7	5	8	8	7
8	7	8	8	8
9	2	10	4	6
10 Being very open	5	23	21	16
Refused	2	2	2	2

Q75e. East Asia

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
0 Not being open	22%	5%	20%	13%
1	5	2	1	3
2	6	3	2	4
3	4	6	7	6
4	4	5	9	5
5	19	16	11	17
6	5	6	10	6
7	9	9	6	9
8	10	8	7	9
9	6	9	6	8
10 Being very open	8	27	21	19
Refused	2	2	1	2

76. How much of a role do you believe the 2003 Iraq War has played in the events leading to the emergence of the refugee crisis in Syria?

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Significant role	44%	67%	53%	56%
2. Small role	37	25	33	31
3. No role	18	6	13	11
4. Refused	2	2	1	2